



## Session 5

Share what God is  
doing now

Everybody loves a good story, particularly children. Stories can teach us so much, so it is no surprise that Jesus chose to teach through parables. Bible stories help us learn about who God is and are great to use with children of all ages to help them get to know their heavenly Father.

But God is still at work today and stories of His power and love are happening around us all the time. **There is a lot our children can learn from what God is doing in His people today, so it's important that we share our stories with them too.**

**It is even more significant for children when they recognise what God is doing in their own lives.** As parents, we need to help our children see where God is at work in our families and in their lives. Pointing out answers to prayer is one really simple way of doing this. When something that we have asked God for happens, we can ask our children, "Do you remember when we prayed for that? God has answered our prayer!"

*One of my sons had been having trouble sleeping at night and kept waking up scared. At a Sunday morning meeting, a word was brought about God helping people to sleep and my son responded for prayer. A few weeks later we realised that he hadn't woken up scared since that Sunday. I reminded him of this and he was excited that God had done something amazing in his life.*

**It is good to keep a record of what God does in our families and with our children.** One idea is to keep a book where we can write down the things that God does for them and says to them. They will be able to look back over it and recognise God's hand in their life at different stages. One family has set up email accounts for their young children - every time God does something significant for them, the parents will send an email documenting it. The children are too young to access the email at the moment, but when they are old enough they will have a record of God's goodness and the journey they have taken with Him. It is important to remind our children of the ways that God has met them as they grow because it shows them that God is very much involved in their lives.

**Testimonies show us who God is.** When we hear people's testimonies we should share them with our children so that they can see what God is like. They then have the opportunity to ask God to 'do it again' for themselves or for friends. For example, when they hear a testimony of God taking away someone's fear they will learn that God wants to take away their fears.

*One child in church heard a testimony of a lady who had always been scared of water being set free from this fear. The next week at a swimming lesson her friend was scared of getting in the water so she prayed for her. She knew that God took away one lady's fear, so why couldn't He do it again for her friend?*

It is good to talk about testimonies with our children to help them recognise what the story shows us about who God is. For younger children, stories may need to be broken down and simplified, but don't avoid telling the story because you think they won't understand.

**It is important to model and create space for sharing and recalling stories.**

There are lots of examples in the Bible of God's people deliberately remembering what He has done. They remember by writing it down, by setting up monuments and through festivals. They even instruct the passing on of stories through generations. God loves it when we tell stories of what He has done and we want to raise our children to be confident in telling their 'God stories'. Home should be a very safe place for them to start doing this. As

parents we can model it around the dinner table by sharing what God is doing in us. We can encourage our children to share too by creating this space where they feel happy to share anything. By listening to their day-to-day ramblings we can get a better idea of what is going on in their lives. Children are also more likely to listen to what we have to say when they feel connected to us and listened to. Once they have shared what is on their minds, we can use the opportunity to ask questions that will direct their thoughts back to God, such as, “I wonder what would please God in that situation?”

As any parent knows, young children love repetition. They have certain stories they want to hear again and again. Repeating stories of God’s goodness is something that will help them remember who God is. It will also make them more confident in sharing them, so don’t be afraid of replaying them for your child. We want our children to be telling their friends their God stories, so they can show their friends what God is like. If they are familiar with the stories of God at work in their lives then they are more likely to be brought to mind when they are having conversations with their friends. We are currently having building work at home, so a lot of our conversations as a family are about that. I have noticed that my son’s friends at school know all about the work going on. We talk about it at home and he talks about it at school. If we talk about God and all He is doing at home, then it seems to follow that our children will naturally and easily talk about this with their friends, too.

### **Principles:**

- 1.) God wants us and our children to talk about who He is and all that He has done for us.**
- 2.) We need to model testimony-sharing to our children and help them to share their own stories.**
- 3.) It is good to keep a record of our journey with God and remind ourselves of it often.**

### Questions:

- When is the best time to share with and hear from your children?
- Are you making the most of opportunities to do this?
- How do you share testimonies with your children?
- How do you help your children access other's testimonies?

### Practicals:

- Set up a way of recording testimonies from your family (journal, email account, video, etc.)
- Take time to share a story about what God is doing in your life at the moment, or a story when you really saw Him at work in your life.
- Talk to your child about the testimonies shared at church this week, or about a testimony you heard recently. Remember to talk about what this story shows us about who God is.

### From the Bible

**Luke 8:39** "Return to your home, and **declare how much God has done for you.**" And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him." (English Standard Version ESV)

**2 Timothy 1:8** "Therefore **do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord**, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God," (ESV)

**Psalm 71:15-18** "**My mouth will tell of your righteous acts**, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; **I will remind them of your righteousness**, yours alone. O God, from my youth you have taught me, **and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.** So even to old age and grey hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come." (ESV)

**Matthew 10:32** “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.” (ESV)



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